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| Question: | Program: FM Ambulance | Program A: | Program B: |
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Applying for the program:

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| Are there any pre-requisites? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · At least 18 years of age; · High school diploma or equivalent; · Current national or accepted state EMT-Basic certification; · Valid drivers license; · Clear criminal history; · Successful completion of admission procedures; and the Ability to meet technical standards of the program. | | |
| Do I need to have experience as an EMTB first? | It doesn't matter. Our program is designed to take the recently registered EMTB and provide them with the education and experience necessary to become an entry-level competent paramedic. Our reputation, regionally and nationally, supports that our methods are | | |
| How do I apply for the program? | Go to our application page on-line. | | |
| Do I need references or an interview? | No. | | |
| Do I need to complete any tests before applying? | ACT, SAT or a COMPASS placement test | | |

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General course questions:

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| How much does the program cost? | Approximately \$11,000 plus living expenses | | |
| Is there financial aid available? | As an affiliate of NDSCS, all usual Federal, state, local and college financial aid is available to our students. Remember to complete a FAFSA as soon as you file your taxes each year. | | |
| Are scholarships available? | Possibly. | | |
| Can I work while attending the course? | It really depends. This is a very intense course. Even though the actual time spent in lecture may seem low, the other work will take a lot of time. | | |
| Are you accredited? | Yes. | | |
| What standard does your program follow? | FM Ambulance meets the DOT, NREMT, state, and CAAHEP guidelines. | | |
| Do you teach the test (NREMT Registry Exam)? | Actually, all programs do "teach the test". The real question should be "is that all that you teach?" Yes, we do our best to make sure you can pass the test. But we also provide the clinical and lab experience (and evaluation) necessary to make you a thinking paramedic at the provider level rather than the "cookbook" level of just | | |
| Do you offer a degree? | Yes, AAS degree. | | |
| Are there any non-traditional or alternative delivery methods? | Yes, night and on-line based courses. | | |
| What educational materials do you use? | Hybrid education, main text we participated in writing, additional texts, extensive on-line materials | | |
| How long is the course? | Our day program is 11 months and the night program is 16 months long. | | |
| Do students earn any other certificates? | FM Ambulance includes all of these certificates in its required curriculum: Advanced Cardiac life Support (ACLS), Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS), Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support (PHTLS), Nonviolent Crisis Intervention (NCI), and AHA BLS Instructor (allows students to teach AHA CPR and First Aid courses). | | |
| Is any travel required? | Depends on student and call volumes. | | |
| How many students are in the program? | FM Ambulance's total enrollment averages 60 students in 3 cohorts. | | |

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Classroom questions:

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| How are paramedic skills presented in class? | No regional bias. | | |
| Who teaches the course? | The paramedic program has 3 full time staff dedicated to it. For some specific topics, experts in the local medical community provide lectures as well. These include firefighters, law enforcement officers, flight medics, doctors, nurses, and anesthetists. | | |
| What is the school's setting? | FM Ambulance is a working Non-college ambulance service. EMEC is co-located with this service and courses are taught in our main station. Currently working field paramedics serve as adjunct instructors and assist with labs and skills when they are in-house. Our only focus is emergency education. | | |
| How do I acquire the hands-on skills I will use on patients | We start with minimal examples in the lab using mannequins and fellow students. However, all of our DOT required skills are performed on actual patients in emergency rooms and, more importantly, in the field. These "live skill acquisitions" allow our students to graduate with a much higher confidence when treating their first patients. | | |
| Does the course have dedicated classroom space? | FM Ambulance's EMEC has dedicated classroom space including a room specifically set up for the delivery of video lectures and rooms set up for instruction in paramedic skills. We have secure storerooms and a computer lab for our students. | | |
| How much and what kind of specialized equipment does the course use? | FM Ambulance uses modern equipment found in many services in the US. We use several styles of each type of equipment to prepare the student for employment across the country. All of the equipment is owned by the program and is stored in or near the classrooms. | | |

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Internship questions:

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| How are your internships timed compared to the lectures? | Concurrent – FM Ambulance starts hospital and ambulance internships within the first several weeks of starting the course. This allows students to immediately apply the classroom knowledge to the field. Students can then identify weaknesses in their knowledge base and ask their instructors in the next class period (which benefits all of the students). Immediate application always makes for better understanding and retention. | | |
| Who contacts the clinical sites for availability and scheduling? | FM Ambulance has a full-time clinical coordinator. Her function is to ensure that clinical sites are available to our students, to schedule those sites, and to maintain the schedule on FISDAP. | | |
| Where can I complete my clinicals? | FM Ambulance has clinical contracts with over 70 sites/departments of all types across Minnesota and North Dakota. Some are rural, some are urban. This will give you a wide range of experiences. Click here for a map of those sites. FM Ambulance is the only program with clinical sites in the Fargo-Moorhead area. We also have sites in Minneapolis including North Memorial Hospital, North Memorial Ambulance and St. Paul Fire EMS. Our clinical coordinator can set up clinical sites in other places based on need and proximity to training sites. | | |
| How are internships scheduled and tracked? | We use the FISDAP Scheduler program. Signing up, tracking, and reminders are all on-line. Student's are given a timeframe and available shifts and then choose those that match their schedule. | | |
| How do I keep track of those skills I have performed? | FISDAP is rapidly becoming the standard of web-based data management for paramedic programs. FM Ambulance has been involved with FISDAP since its beginning. We were one of the first test sites and continue to provide assistance to the FISDAP team. The system is easy to use by both instructors and students, it has a proven track record, is reliable, and provides a record that employers can rely on when hiring. FISDAP also provides data for research to improve paramedic education. Our instructors have been involved with several FISDAP Research Summits and presented findings at national conferences. | | |
| How many hours of clinicals will I complete? | FM Ambulance students average 1,200 hours of clinicals. This gives the students the equivalent of nearly a year of experience with actual patient encounters, not simulations. | | |

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Post-graduation questions:

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| What is your job placement rate? | This one is actually pretty easy. With the nationwide shortage of paramedics, it would be the rare, and poor, program that couldn't have a 100% placement rate. See the next question for a good follow-up. | | |
| Where do your graduate medics work? | FM Ambulance is very proud of our placement of paramedics in services across the country. Our reputation as a school allows our alumni access to almost any employer in the country. . | | |
| Where do your students take their practical exams? | As a state licensed training center, we offer practical exams at the end of every course. You will use the same equipment that you used in class. We also ensure that the evaluators are current with all of the skills and algorithms involved in the testing process. | | |
| What are your NREMT paramedic exam pass rates? | Our 10 year averages - 1st time = 66%, Overall = 88%. We have also recently changed to using the Online Summative Paramedic Exam (OSPE) as our course final. This exam is a proven indicator of success on the NREMT exam. Last year's numbers, only allowing students who pass the OSPE to test the NREMT, are 1st time = 81% (25 of 31), 2nd time = 87% (27 of 31). | | |